

# VYTAIS

The Knight



volume 82: no. 10



*Gruodis - December 1996*

**VYTIS**  
**-THE KNIGHT-**  
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 1996 - 1997



Gruodis  
 December 1996  
 Volume 82: No. 10

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VYTIS (THE KNIGHT) (ISSN 0042-9384) is published monthly except bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, 6817 N. Ridge Blvd., Chicago, Illinois. 60645-4916. Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$25.00 per year. Periodical Postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to: VYTIS (The Knight), Business Manager, P.O. Box 60453, Chicago, Illinois 60660-0453.

**VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF**

**Editor:** Marytė Abbott  
**Council News Editor:** Dalia Bulvičius  
**Layout and Design:** MBA Designs  
**Bus. Manager:** Richard Niedvares  
 tel. (773) 764-3996 fx. (773) 764-5847

Send all editorial correspondence to:  
 M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight  
 P.O. Box 1934  
 Grand Central Sta. NY 10163-1934  
 tel/fax (718) 937-3352

**TRUSTEES**  
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## Christmas 1996

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**VYTIS - the Knight** - is the official publication of the Knight of Lithuania. The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of their ancestors, and a knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

All correspondence should reach the editor by the **first of the month**, two months in advance of the issue and should be typewritten and double spaced. Except for the information contained in the Official News, the Knights of Lithuania and editors assume no responsibility for the statement or opinions made by the contributors or no obligation to return any material or photos unsolicited. Use of material from VYTIS - The Knight - is permissible only if credit is given to VYTIS - The Knight - its authors, artists or photographers. Lithuanian fonts courtesy of Litnet Typographers.

## My Fellow Knights,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. May all your wishes come true.

As 1996 closes and a new one begins, The Knights enter their their 84th year charged with a new zeal. The Knights got a great present, there's a new Council! Welcome Council 156! It's terrific to see the organization grow.

Our President, Evelyn Oželis, has written a wonderful message that describes the spirit of the Knights and I agree wholeheartedly. Have a great holiday season.

'Yours in the Cause'  
Marytė Abbott




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### New K. of L. Council

# Welcome Shamokin !

C-156 Shamokin, PA  
Mary Ann Yonkoskie



The members of St. Michael's Council 156 of Shamokin thank the Knights of Lithuania for your welcome and support. It has been interesting and fun learning the traditions some at us lost when our ancestors passed away. With the help of Elsie Kosmisky, we learned the arts of making Lithuanian Christmas ornaments and egg scratching for Easter, and had our first Christmas vigil dinner. Father Ted Keating, our spiritual advisor, offered a blessing and delivered the homily.

Our organizational meeting was held in October 1995. We now have 44 members. Our elected officers are Robert Wislock, President; David Kinder, First Vice-President; Larry Kinder, Second Vice-President; Rose Paczkoski, Treasurer; Mary Ann Charnosky, Secretary; Kathy Wislock, Financial Secretary; Mary Ann Yonkoskie, Vytis Correspondent; John Charnosky and Al Kalakitus, Trustees.

We have been active in fund raising. We had two Chinese Auctions, a spaghetti dinner that raised \$500 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and

many Sunday afternoon bingos. Through our fund raisers, we were able to donate to local charities and Aid to Lithuania and awarded a scholarship to Andrew Charnosky, a student at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, who is of Lithuanian descent. Andrew will be attending either Bloomsburg University or Wilkes College.

The council members and guests met for a picnic at Knoebel's Grove Amusement Resort, with free rides being provided for the children. Also, a Mass and dessert social was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Kinder.

The members with friends and relatives took a bus trip to Washington, D.C., on October 12, and a bus trip to New York City is planned for November 9.

Upcoming events during November and December include a Turkey Bingo on November 24 at the Shamokin Council of the Knights of Columbus, a Christmas Kielbasa and Bread Sale,

(☞ *Continued under C-156 news on page 51.*)  
*Letters to the Editor will continue next month.*



*My dear Fellow Knights,*

*This Christmas time, not unlike other Christmases, is a hectic time. We are all going in ten different directions, trying to find first, that special gift we can give to make someone happy, and then we celebrate the humble birth of the Christ Child who asks for nothing more than for us to realize how special WE ARE! We come to the feast of Christmas with no pretensions of who we are or what we've accomplished. This Christmas should help us realize how gifted WE ARE to be created in the image of God.*

*May the Christmas celebrations remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas which is PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. May I be the first to wish all of you the happiest of holidays. Christmas is a time to be with our families. I pray that you spend these days experiencing the warmth and glow of one another's love.*

*Just as every family has its differences and disagreements, there are times when we get angry and annoyed at one another, And just as all families should be working for togetherness and healing, we should be a reconciling, a healing organization. May this blessed season be the occasion for healing the hurts that often separate us.*

*On behalf of the Supreme Council, I would like to assure each and everyone of you of our prayers at this time and thank you for the privilege of serving you.*

*Bless us all and give us the strength, courage, and will to continue our*

*Dar vėl linkiu Malonių Šv. Kaledių, Kristaus dvasinės palaimos, gražaus sugyvenimo ir laimingai testį jūsų ateities gyvenimą.*

*Vytiškai,*

*Evelyn Oželis  
National President*

## Chicago District K of L Choir Celebrates 80th Anniversary



*Dr. Leonard J. Šimutis*

*The early Knights of Lithuania Choir in 1918 Chicago.*

The Chicago District (MAMD) Knights of Lithuania Choir (1916-1996) is probably the only remaining Chicago area Lithuanian choir formed during the early part of our century that is still active after 80 years. It has also outlasted almost every Lithuanian parish choir in the Chicago area and the "Pirmyn", "Birūtė" and "Kestutis" choirs that once had both prestigious pasts and several prestigious directors.

The district choir has had five active choir directors since 1916: Anthony Pocius (1916-25 and again 1928-32), Joseph Sauris (1932-36), Stanley "Jimmy" Rakauskas (1936-38), Joseph Sauris (1938-41), Leonard J. Šimutis (1941-42 and 1945-51) and Faustas Strolia (1960 until the present). The choir was inactive from 1925-28, 1942-45 (wartime), and, from 1951-60.

Here is a brief history of the Chicago District Knights of Lithuania choir since its inception in 1916:

A notice appeared in the February 18, 1916, issue of *VYTIS* (Vol. II, p. 5) with a call for choristers to come to an organizational meeting at St. George Hall (Chicago) on Feb. 24, 1916. The meeting was called by the Chicago District Choir Organizational Committee - Leonard Šimutis, K of L district president, P. Baluds, and, J. Jonca. During this meeting Aleksandras Aleksandravičius/Aleksis was named the director of the choir and John Kazanauskas was elected as president. Mr. Aleksis rehearsed the choir for several months and then resigned in order to accept an organist position in Brooklyn, NY. He did not have the opportunity to perform with the choir in

concert. After a period of inactivity, an announcement was made during the August 27, 1916 Chicago District meeting that the District Choir was again being organized. The first rehearsal was to take place on September 1, 1916 at the Mark Square Park Hall with Anthony Pocius as the new director.

The first concert by the newly organized Chicago District 52 voice Choir took place on December 10, 1916 at St. George Hall in the Bridgeport area of Chicago. An orchestra assisted the choir in several works. A number of duets, quartets and solos were also performed during this first concert.

Among the choir members who participated in that concert was Antoinette Peštininkaitė (she later became Mrs. John Kazanauskas). She was also a cousin of Mrs. Anthony Pocius, wife of the K of L District choir director.

Mrs. Peštininkaitė-Kazanauskas died on April 12, 1996 at the age of almost 100 years and was probably the last surviving member of that first Chicago District Choir. Other active Knights of Lithuania members who sang in that first concert were the first editors of *VYTIS* - Alexander Račius and Kazys Pakštas.

After a few years of inactivity the choir was reorganized in 1928 through the efforts of Ignas Sakalas, P. Čižauskas and P. Gritėnis. The District choir was then renamed the "Dainos" K of L choir and prof. A. Pocius was again invited to direct the group. Their printed programs, with the "Dainos" nomenclature, indicate that their first season began in 1928/29 and ended with the 4th season

1931/1932 with Anthony Pocius giving up the directorship after that season.

The district choir had been known as the K of L "Dainos" choir during the period between 1928 and 1937. On October 24, 1937, during a Chicago District meeting the name was changed back from "Dainos choras" to the original name, "Vyčių choras", (VYTIS, November 1937, p.9). Stanley "Jimmie" Rakauskas was then the director of the choir.

Based upon the limited number of choir programs that are available for the years between 1918-41 when Pocius, Sauris and Rakauskas were directors the choir rosters indicated large memberships. Their repertoires were varied and included a number of non-Lithuanian compositions with performances at Lithuanian parish halls, churches, Sokol Hall, The Lithuanian Auditorium, Ashland Blvd. Auditorium, Olympic Ballroom, the downtown Aryan Grotto Theater, Kimball Hall, the University of Chicago and elsewhere. Their

programs consisted of operettas, cantatas, the utilization of many soloists and Lithuanian choral compositions as they became more readily available. The choirs of this period usually utilized orchestral accompaniments

On September 19, 1941, Leonard J. Šimutis, the son of Leonard Šimutis (1892-1975), met with Harriet Lukas, Phyllis Pechukas and Don Varnas who represented the Chicago District Knights of Lithuania. Leonard J. Šimutis, who was 21 years old and a music student at DePaul University, was invited to direct the Chicago District K of L district choir and choir rehearsals began on Tuesday, October 7, 1941. The new director had been a member of the district choir when it participated in the song festival at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Among the 53 choirs that participated were two other Knights of Lithuania choirs from other areas. The song festival was directed by Prof. Juozas Žilevičius.

Between 1941-42 and 1945-51 (Leonard J.

1916 Program book pages courtesy of Prof. and Mrs. A.S. Pocius.

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APSKRIČIO CHORO**

Gift of  
Prof. & Mrs. A. S. Pocius

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**Gruodžio 10 d., 1916**

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O. POCIENE  
Atlikėja - Just. Šešėtytė

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KUN. A. PRIEDKIS,  
KUN. A. SREBURNIS,  
OSKARAS MULVENCICUS,  
KUN. GINETIS,  
KUN. J. J. STATKIS,  
A. PRIEDKAS,  
A. KALUŠKIS,  
KUN. J. KLORIS,  
ANT. POCIUS,  
V. BUTKAUSKAS,  
M. A. A. BLARIS,  
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gėjai (tie, kurie užsimoka \$5.00  
metinės mokesčio. Už tokių  
metinę mokesčių gauna tikietus  
visus Choro parengiamus  
vakarus), nariai globėjai (tai  
tie, kurie ant kart įneša \$25.00  
Choro lėšas. Pastarieji skai-  
tosi nariais visą amžių, turi  
sprendžiamąjį Choro reika-  
laime balsą ir gauna tikietus  
visus choro rengiamus vaka-  
rus), garbės nariai (žygdai  
pasidaravę Choro gerovę).

Jei pritari Liet. Vyčių Chio  
Apskr. Choro veikimui — pa-  
remk jį pastodamais, tokia,  
ar kitokia jo pariu!



M. JANČIAUSKIENĖ  
Atlikėja - Just. Šešėtytė

Šimutis as director) the choral repertoire consisted mainly of Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian choral literature with the presentation of only one cantata. The choir sang a cappella (unaccompanied) almost exclusively. Among the several notable performances that took place one was at the Amalgamated Center Auditorium on May 7, 1950 when the choir performed with the Community Symphony Orchestra and the Amalgamated Chorus conducted by Dr. Leon Stein. The K of L choir, with Leonard J. Šimutis as director, has also performed at De Paul University, Eleventh Street Theater, Kimball Hall, radio stations W.B.E.Z, W.G.N. and W.C.F.L and elsewhere. A recording of Lithuanian songs was made on June 16, 1948, at the Chicago Board of Education radio station at the request of David Nyvall, Jr. a music supervisor for the Chicago Board of Education and a faculty member at De Paul University. Leonard J. Šimutis resigned as the district choir director in 1951 because of his teaching obligations at De Paul University, Chicago Teachers College and elsewhere.

The Chicago District Choir was inactive between 1951 and 1960. Eleanor Laurin, Chicago K of L District president, Estelle Rogers, a district K of L choir member since November 8, 1949 and Loretta (Kassel) Stukas revived the organization in 1960. Faustas Strolia accepted the invitation to direct the choir and has been its director since 1960. The reactivated district choir made its first public appearance on February 11, 1961 at the Morrison Hotel during the very first K of L "Memories of Lithuania" banquet. Prof. Dr. Jack Stukas who was honored at this banquet was also the first recipient of the yearly Mid America District "Award of Distinction".

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Because of the influence of the entertainment media, especially television, and, in some cases fear of traveling after dark, most choral groups now have difficulty recruiting and retaining new members. However, the present K of L District choir has survived over the years and has been actively engaged in making 5 recordings, 3 videotapes, 5 films for Lithuanian Television in Chicago and often appears in concert. Their repertoire is essentially based on compositions composed by Lithuanian composers. The choir is often invited to sing a Lithuanian mass at non-Lithuanian parishes. They have performed with, "Cavalleria Rusticana" the Chicago Lithuanian Opera Co. productions of "Aida", "Cavalleria Rusticana" and the Verdi "Requiem". They have performed at all of the Lithuanian Song and Dance Festivals since 1964, the New York 1964 Worlds' Fair, in Canada, Washington, D.C., Springfield, IL, Racine, WI, Omaha, NE, at the Daley Center and McCormick Place in Chicago, and elsewhere.

The present officers of the District Knights of Lithuania choir are: Sabina Henson - president, Albert Matulis - first vice-president, Robert Martin, Jr. - second vice-president, Ann Marie Kassel - secretary, Juozas Juška - treasurer, Mary Kindus - trustee, Elizabeth Žubas - trustee, Sr. M. Angela Balchunas librarian, Virginia Bužėnas - librarian, Terry Strolia - librarian, Margaret Narvaišis - archivist, Irene Macke - English publicity and Apolinaras Bagdonas Lithuanian publicity.

An 80th anniversary celebration of the Knights of Lithuania choir took place on October 13, 1996 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall in Chicago.

*About the author: Dr. Leonard I. Šimutis is an emeritus professor of music and retired chairman of the music department at Chicago State University where he had also directed the college choir for many years. He was a music faculty member at De Paul University, a choral director at several high schools and an organist/choral director at several churches in the Chicago area. He is a former member and later director of the District K of L Choir. He joined K of L council 112 on October 11, 1938 and is a fourth degree member.*



## United Here for Success There

Third Prize Winner  
K. of L. Foundation Essay Contest  
Joseph A. Kohanski  
C-63



All are familiar with the clichés "put your money where your mouth is."; "If you can do better, show me." and others which challenge the verbose to action, solutions, and most importantly, implementation. The Knights are challenged with two Herculean tasks:

1. Their own viability and growth, and concomitantly, continuity of Lithuanian culture and history.

2. Maximization of Aid to Lithuania.

Undoubtedly many opine that they do not fall into the "do nothings". Do we not send packages to Lithuania, pay our dues, buy chances, attend Knight's and parlor meetings talking about Lithuania's plight? Don't we greet each other, "Kaip tau einas?" But, haven't we lulled ourselves into a self serving complacency?

I know I have. Your essay subject has spurred me to rethink my meager contributions, my clone's and myriads of Lithuanian organizations.

Normally, I would have lazed by this opportunity except for recollection of a statement by Hines Nordhoff, Volkswagen's organizer, while listening to the heroically soaring music of Beethoven's Fifth. His philosophy, "The moment of satisfaction is the moment of danger."

Individual and group evaluation under this standard would conclude we're in a lot of danger.

"How should the change's in Lithuania affect the focus of the Knights of Lithuania?"

The key to any problem solution is, isolation and definition, evaluation of solutions and marshaling forces for execution. The operative term is in your question, "focus".

Prior to solving others' problems, we must solve our own.

1. We need infusion of younger generations. And as sacrilegious as it may be perceived,

welcome our non-Catholic brethren. After all, we Catholics don't have exclusivity to Lithuanianism.

2. Alone, we can't undertake significant long term projects requiring large sums of money. By linking arms with many Lithuanian organizations, focused on a common project, we could forge miracles. This should be one of our primary goals, spearheading an amalgamation in support of major long term growth projects. Such, would serve many purposes, show unified Lithuanian-American support and provide hands-on experience in entrepreneurship and independent business operations.

For example, if each organization alone spent \$1,000. in a local newspaper, only a small population is reached. However, if 30 banded together for a page in the *Washington Post* or *New York Times*, the message expands to millions.

### Possible Solutions

**Membership:** Lets work on our kids, grandkids and everyone we know. Lets not exclude those without Lithuanian blood. One of the most energetic, supportive workers, Betty Griskos was only married to a Lithuanian.

### Lithuania:

1. A farm equipment co-op so that small farmers can take advantage of mechanization on a pay or crop share basis.

2. A farm production and marketing co-op which would provide credit for seeds, fertilizer, etc., and as a marketing and distribution facility for product.

3. A centralized marketing and distribution center for the many cottage industry products illustrative of our culture.

Let us organize, pick a project and in lockstep support it.



(Art by K. Simonis, Vilnius ©1966)

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## The Founding of The Sisters of St. Casimir

*This is the third in a series of articles on American Catholic Religious orders and how each evolved.*



*Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC*

Casimira Kaupas, the future Mother Maria, would have to travel a long and involved journey before she could realize her deep desire to consecrate herself to God. Casimira was born in the quiet village of Gudeliai in Lithuania on January 6, 1880. From her father, Anufas Kaupas, who was a spiritual leader not only in his own family but also among his neighbors, she learned to urge others to good. In 1897, she came to Saint Joseph Parish in Scranton, PA, to be a housekeeper for her brother-priest, Anthony Kaupas, who was the pastor.

During these four years, as housekeeper, she witnessed and heard the concern of the Lithuanian priests as they would meet in St. Joseph's rectory to discuss the needs of the Lithuanian immigrants. It was at this time that Dr. John Sliupas and Rev. Dembskis agitated vigorously and spread atheistic Darwinism. She was well-informed about both as well as about the so-called "Sliuptamiai." (Followers of Sliupas, who promoted a materialist and atheist liberalism.) More than once she would say to her brother: "If only I were a man or were educated, I would give it to those Sliuptamiai!" She saw how easy it was to establish schools in America and how good it would be if the Lithuanians had schools in their parishes. This would be wonderful in Lithuania also, but who could even dream of this during Russian dominance?

It was during her four year stay in Scranton that Casimira met Sisters (Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary - IHM) for the first time and was attracted to an apostolic religious life. In 1902, Casimira returned to Lithuania and while there she resolved to become a teaching religious to help the Lithuanian Americans concerning matters of faith, since it was impossible to do so in her

native land. Reverend A. Milukas who was studying in Fribourg, Switzerland and other Lithuanian priests in America were of the opinion that the Lithuanians ought to establish an independent Lithuanian congregation. Casimira agreed to establish this Congregation and studied for three years in Ingenbohl, Switzerland. During this time, she asked her brother, Father A. Kaupas and his friend, Father Milukas to find a priest in the United States who would assume responsibility for the Congregation.

In 1905 Rev. Doctor Anthony Staniukynas agreed to accept this role. He succeeded in getting his bishop, Bishop JW. Shanahan of Harrisburg, PA, to sponsor the Congregation. At the Bishop's request, Mother M. Cyril, IHM of Scranton, PA accepted Casimira and her two companions Judith Dvaranauskaite (Mother M. Immaculata) and Antanina Unguraiciute (Mother M. Concepta) into the novitiate of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Marywood.

In 1913, Sister Maria was elected first Superior General, an office to which she was reelected until her death. For twenty-seven years, she carried out these responsibilities with great humility and charity. She opened and staffed numerous schools throughout the United States, and built and staffed hospitals. In 1920, after World War I ceased, she and four Sisters traveled to Lithuania and established a foundation of the Sisters of St. Casimir, known as Pazaislis, in Kaunas, Lithuania.

She extended the apostolate of the Congregation to New Mexico in 1937 and was planning to send her Sisters to Argentina, South America, but this became a reality only in 1941 after her death.

The charisma and mission of Mother Maria continues to live through the ministries of the Sisters of St. Casimir as they fulfill their proclaimed mission, "to teach and evangelize; care for the sick, the aging and others who are hurting; provide a sense of belonging to people of various cultures and share Christ's special love for the poor." This

dedication is carried out in various ways through the institutions they sponsor, namely, Holy Cross Hospital, and Maria High School both in Chicago, along with Villa Joseph Marie High School and Saint Joseph Nursing Home in Holland, PA. The Sisters also staff elementary schools and do pastoral ministry, social work and catechetical work in the Chicago area, Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland and New Mexico. In Argentina, South America, the Sisters of St. Casimir minister in the cities of Avelleneda, Rosario and Cordoba.

During the last years of her life, Mother Maria suffered from cancer. She died in Chicago on April 17, 1940, at the age of 60, a true example of courage, patience in suffering and acceptance of God's will. Throughout her life Mother Maria was acclaimed as a holy woman. Three years after her death Samuel Cardinal Stritch of Chicago gave approval for a prayer to be said praying for her Beatification. In 1988 Rome declared Mother Maria to be called SERVANT OF GOD. The Congregation continues to pursue her Cause for Beatification.

With the fall of the iron curtain in 1991, the Chicago Sisters of St. Casimir quickly rallied to now, openly assist their Lithuanian counterparts. Presently they travel freely to Pazaislis to assist the Sisters with leadership, administrative skills and long range planning. A few Chicago Sisters have even remained in Lithuania as teachers. Several Sisters from Lithuania have come to Chicago to study English and Theology in order to be better trained to carry out their ministry at home.

With a firm hope and trust in Divine Providence, Mother Maria Kaupas set out to establish a religious Community for the preservation of the faith and the glory of God. In the planning days of this new Congregation, one priest stated to her, "As I see it, Casimira, you can become a notable person in Church history." This prophetic statement became a fact in the beatification process which is presently in progress. It continues to be fulfilled through the dedication and ministry of each Sister of St. Casimir living in the United States, Argentina and Lithuania.



## In Memoriam



**William Smith**  
C-25, Cleveland, OH  
Oct. 1, 1996

**John Eacman**  
C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA  
March 1996

**Ann Nancy Gordon**  
C-26, Worcester, MA  
Sept. 1996

**Vincent Grazulis**  
C-26, Worcester, MA  
Aug. 1996

**Frances Fink**  
C-136, Hud.-Mohawk, NY  
May 22, 1996

**Marian Batten**  
C-136, Hud.-Mohawk, NY  
June 13, 1996

**Frances Stenonis**  
C-136, Hud.-Mohawk, NY  
1996

**Edward Gans**  
C-144, Anthracite, PA  
October 4, 1996

**Ada Sinkwitz**  
C-96, Dayton, OH  
August 26, 1996

**Joseph Ryan**  
C-96, Dayton, OH  
October 7, 1996

**Aldona Janulis**  
C-112, Marquette Pk, IL  
August 20, 1996

**Albert A. Gutaszkas**  
C-50, New Haven, CT  
August 10, 1996

**Walter Lukaszewski**  
C-50, New Haven, CT  
August 11, 1996

**Paul Slick**  
C-46, Vandergrift, PA  
July 16, 1996

# Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!

On December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The focal point of this celebration is the belief that Mary was preserved from sin from the very first moment of her life - from conception.

The observance of a feast day honoring the conception of Mary by St. Anne was begun in the Eastern Church as early as 750 AD. It was celebrated in conjunction with the feast of St. Anne which fell on December 9. A ninth century calendar from Naples listed the feast as the Conception of Mary and in 1050 Pope Leo IX recommended observance of the feast. In the East, it became an obligatory holy day by edict of Emperor Emmanuel in 1166.

Having originated in Greek monasteries, the feast of the Immaculate Conception was brought back to England by the crusaders in the 10th Century. It spread on the continent during the 12 Century especially after the observance was adopted by the Franciscans. The feast was added to the Roman Calendar in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV. In 1439, the Council of Basle decided to make it a universal feast.



Shortly thereafter, the Sistine Chapel was dedicated to the Conception of Mary.

In 1708, Pope Clement XI made the feast a holy day of obligation for the universal church and on December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Eight years earlier, in 1846, the Bishops in the United States had made the Immaculate Conception the patronal feast of the United States.

The apparitions of Our Lady at Lourdes, France, in 1858 has been interpreted

as a heavenly confirmation of the dogma.

The relevance of this feast is reflected in the prayers composed for the liturgy of this feast. As we celebrate the singular privilege of Mary's preservation from sin, we pray that we, too, may be redeemed from the wounds of original sin. The existence of original sin and its effects on the descendants of Adam and Eve are presupposed; otherwise a feast of the Immaculate Conception would have little meaning.

## The Vigil of Christmas Eve



Although many have modified this sacred tradition of our Lithuanian past, it is indeed a tradition special to many of us, even if only in memories. Those lucky enough to have experienced a Lithuanian Grandmother have most probably experienced one of her special Kučios dinners on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, everything had to be neat and tidy in the cottage or home. From the ceiling would dangle garlands or straw sculptures. The atmosphere would be a pleasant blend of freshly cut evergreens mixed with the aroma of ceremonial foods for the evening meal. The anticipation of the four long weeks of Advent would culminate in the most reverent, beautiful legacy, tradition and heritage Vigil of Christmas Eve.

Earlier, the father of the home would enter with a sheaf of grain which he would place in a corner. This represents the home's guardian angel. The family table would be adorned as a symbol of Bethlehem, being hallowed by the hay placed under the fine linen cloth. Since sunset, the youngest child had been peering through the window waiting for the first evening star that symbolically would allow the meal to begin. Members and guests would gather around a food laden table beginning the ages-long vigil feast with the breaking of the plotkele, or Christmas wafer. The eldest member of the family would break the first wafer to share with all as prayers were said.

In many homes, an extra place was set for a relative who had died that year, so that the spirit would join in the special meal. Twelve meatless dishes were then served including herring, poppy seed milk, potatoes, mushroom and cabbage dishes, other vegetable and fruit dishes and fish. Everyone is supposed to at least taste each of the dishes for good luck

during the coming year, as the Lithuanians were very superstitious.

The meal is eaten in a solemn manner without alcohol. Rather fruit juice or cider is served.

After the meal, the mood lightens and predictions and forecasts were done about the coming year about health, love and happiness. One told by my grandfather was for the unmarried girls to listen to the direction the baying dogs (or wolves) were barking. From this direction was to come their future husbands.

The family would usually gather around the decorated fir tree and sing Christmas carols and some families exchange gifts.

Many of our councils host a special Kučios dinner a solemn remembrance to our heritage. It is a great way to introduce the young to the custom and to bring back good memories of those past Kučios meals many of us may still remember.

Council 3 in Philadelphia is hosting their 12th annual Kučios on December 14. For the past eleven years C-3 prepared an enjoyable evening while having this traditional supper maintaining many of the Lithuanian traditions including hay under the tablecloth and a tree adorned with handmade ornaments. Contact Lillian Greymas at (215) 426-6762 or Nellie Pandza at (610) 237-1693 for tickets to the C-3 special event. Many other councils also host a Kučios and those lucky enough to live near one of them should consider attending. It's a lovely way to introduce non-Lithuanians to some of our special customs.

## *Kučios Memories*

**Donna Gustaitis Kamm**  
C-147 St. Petersburg, FL

It was the afternoon before Christmas we left St. Petersburg, Florida as the Arctic winds from the north ripped the outdoor decorations and a dark cloud floating above the treetops foretold stormy weather.

We drove way down south to Fort Myers to join my son, David Kamm and his family to attend the traditional Kučios feast. We were told that as a family we were going to a special Kučios arranged by an local organization, LITHUANIAN FORUM. Lithuanians and those of their descent came from near suburbs, and far away places. There were families, couples and singles, well over a hundred people.

Tables were nicely decorated and laden with traditional food, 12 meatless dishes. Mr. Vilius Brazenas the leader of the Forum was the master of ceremonies. He led all in saying Grace and passed the plotkele wafers for each person to share. This reminded me of the Last Supper. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves giving us a chance to meet new people. My son, family and I represented four generations of Lithuanian Americans.

Following the Kučios festivities the hour was nearing midnight and as a custom, we all braved to cold to attend Midnight Mass at St. Francis Church in Ft. Myers, one of the oldest Catholic churches in the area, built at the turn of the century. It stands majestically as a landmark beacon, surrounded with old white houses, some with picket fences.

Upon entering this church one gets the feeling of warmth and welcome and it seems that one has been there before with its old pews and kneelers, cement floors and beautiful windows. The focal point is the altar 7-steps above the floor level surrounded by beautiful Christmas flowers.

The pastor with four priests and four altar servers celebrated Mass with the formality befitting the event, the Birthday of Christ Our King. About 99 singers in the choir sang the entire Handel's Messiah, followed by a thunderous applause.

Upon leaving the church, outdoors a fierce storm raged blowing leaves and branches, ringing

with it rain and in our imagination, snow flakes. Although it was late upon return to my son's home, my daughter-in-law, Joan, sat at the piano, her son, Rexx, with his trombone, and another daughter-in-law, Carol, on the flute playing and singing the beautiful, "O Holy Night". Truly a memorable Christmas.

**Bertha Stoskus**  
New England District President

Growing up with my siblings, mother made all the holidays special. Christmas Eve Kučios we had all the traditional foods - Plotkelis (wafers), herring, boiled potatoes, sautéed cabbage, poppy seed milk (in her later years Mom equated this with Sominex), etc. But she would also include the Maneschwitz Kosher wine, a sweet wine. Being naive, we thought all wines were sweet, but later found out differently.

We do not serve the Kosher wine any longer at our Kučios, but the next generation is ready to take on the traditions grandmother nurtured.

**Irena Gecas**  
C-12, NYC, Scholarship Com. Chair

As a child growing up in Dayton, Ohio, Kučios was my favorite day of the year. With two sisters, Rita and Vida, we assisted our mother, Eugenija, making all the traditional Lithuanian dishes. As she prepared the food, she always recounted stories of her childhood in Lithuania growing up with two brothers and a sister. To add to the festivities of the day, December 24th was also my sister, Rita's birthday. In addition to the twelve dishes that needed to be meticulously prepared for a family of six, my mother also needed to make my sister's birthday cake. Since it was a special occasion, my family was always treated to a special multi-layered "torte". Kučios was strictly observed. However, after the meal was eaten, it became a celebration for my sister's birthday. My mother always wanted to make the holiday separate from her birthday.

From year to year, the torte always varied, sometimes it was chocolate or lemon, and at times we were treated to the "Napoleonas". (See Lith. Chefs section.) ❖❖❖

## LITHUANIAN CHEFS

The following are a few favorite recipes for Kučios and the Christmas holidays.

### TORTE "NAPOLEONAS"

*Irena Gecas, C-12, NYC*

Cake Layers:

4 cups flour  
1 lb. lightly salted butter  
1 pint sour cream

Sift flour into a large mixing bowl. With a pastry blender, slowly cut softened butter into flour into crumbly. Blend in sour cream. With hands form dough into 11 or 12 egg-sized round balls. Refrigerate overnight in covered bowl. Before baking, let dough soften for about 10 minutes. Roll out each dough ball until it is wafer thin to fit the size of a 12 inch pie pan. Bake on a slightly floured pan. Prick holes in dough before baking. Bake each layer at 350 degrees for 3-5 minutes depending on your oven.

Cool each layer separately. With a sharp knife, even out the sides to form a circle. Save these trimmings to top the cake.

Filling:

1 1/2 lb. unsalted butter  
2 cups powdered sugar  
8 egg yolks  
1 package vanilla pudding mix  
2 cups milk  
1/2 cup half & half or Carnation condensed milk  
2 tsp. vanilla  
Lemon juice to flavor

Cream butter, yolks and sugar. Stir in dry pudding mix into 1 cup cold milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Gradually pour and stir pudding into butter and yolks mixture. Heat other cup of milk and pour in milk, cream, and vanilla to the mixture. Slowly add lemon juice. Cool mixture thoroughly. When cool, begin layering cake with filling. Spread about 1 tablespoon between each layer. Frost sides and top with same filling. Sprinkle with crumbs from cake trimmings. Additional fillings that

can be used: apricot fruit or berry preserves.

### LITH. MUSHROOM SOUP

*Bertha Kuzma, John Baltrus and C-19, Pittsburgh, PA*

1/2 lb. dried mushrooms or 1 quart canned mushrooms (drained)  
1 qt. sauerkraut juice and some sauerkraut  
3 more quarts water  
1 clove garlic  
1 small bay leaf  
1 cup rice or barley

Soak mushrooms overnight. Rinse about 3 times to clean them. Add mushrooms to water and bring to a boil. Add salt, pepper, garlic, bay leaf and juice. Let simmer for 1 hr. (if canned mushrooms are used, boil only 1/2 hour). Add rice or barley and cook until tender.

Soup thickening: In a small frypan, add 1 or 2 tablespoons butter, fry 1 chopped onion until brown. Add 1 or 2 tablespoons flour, stir well, and then let cool. Add thickener to the soup and boil for an additional 1/2 hour.

## ***THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.***

***wishes all readers***

***a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

*Support the Knights of Lithuania through the K. of L. Foundation, an Endowment Fund. Donations are invested, only the interest is spent, on special projects in the name of the K. of L., so your money "keeps giving." Join the Foundation or add to your previous donation. Any amount will be most gratefully accepted. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:*

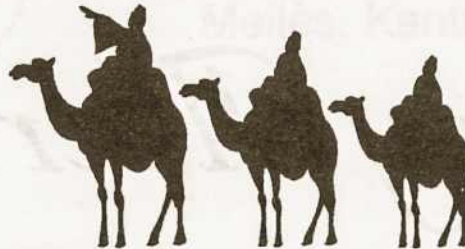
***KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.***

***234 Sunlit Drive***

***Watchung, NJ 07060***



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## Members of the ANTHRACITE COUNCIL

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ED & ANNE CARLITUS

HELEN A. CHESKO

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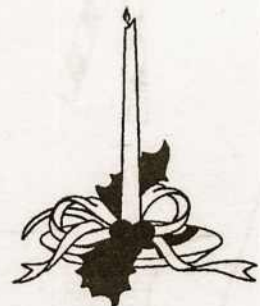
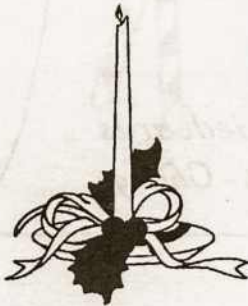
ELEANOR VAICAITIS

ANNA KLIZAS WARGO

AL & ANNA YOCKACHONIS

EVA YURKEWICZ

BEST WISHES FOR A NEW YEAR  
FILLED WITH MANY WONDERFUL  
DAYS!



To All My Fellow Knights...

I Wish You A

Very Merry  
Christmas

And A

Healthy  
New Year

-Richard Niedoares  
Council 16 - Chicago



# LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ

Tegul Ateinančios Naujieji  
Metai Pripildo Jūsų Širdis  
Meilės, Kantrybės ir Ramybės.

BEST WISHES FROM  
YOUR FRIENDS AND  
FELLOW KNIGHTS IN  
THE MID-CENTRAL  
DISTRICT.




---

**Knights of Lithuania  
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL 63**



Wishes everyone  
A Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!



**Linkime Visiems  
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!**



## Council 17, South Boston, MA

Wishing all  
Vyčiai and Friends  
A Most Holy Christmas  
and a Healthy and Prosperous  
New Year.



## Season's Greetings

**May the love and hope of the Holy Family  
be with you this Christmas  
and  
always throughout the year!**



**Council 26 - Worcester, Mass.**



*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

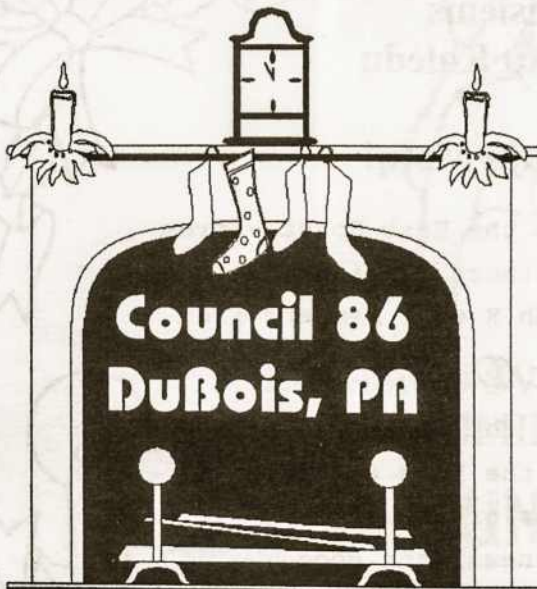
Council 153  
Treasure Coast,  
Florida



*In Fond Memory of  
**Konnie Savickus**  
A Faithful Knight  
and a  
Dear Friend*

Loretta Grigaliunas  
C-5, Chicago  
President

**WARMEST HOLIDAY GREETINGS**



**Council 118  
Hazleton, PA**



*Linkime Visiems  
Linksmų Šventu Kalėdu  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metu !*

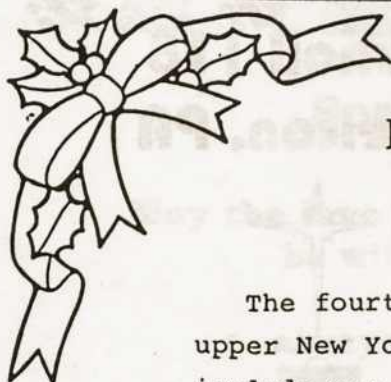


Malonių Kalėdų Švenčių  
ir  
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų  
Prelatas Algimintas Bartkus  
Kunigai ir Studentai  
Svento Kazimiero Kolegijoje

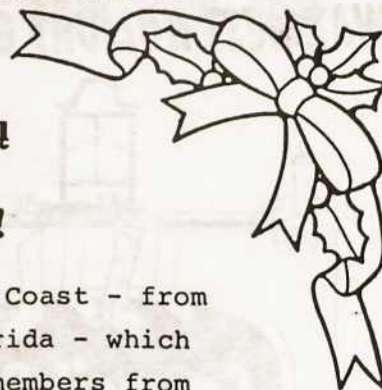
With heartfelt thanks for your continued support  
of the St. Casimir Guild of the  
Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome

*May the Blessings of the Christ Child  
and the Love of His Mother be yours  
at Christmas and throughout the coming year.*

- The St. Casimir Guild of the  
Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome  
Anna Klizas Wargo, President



**Linkime Visiems  
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!**

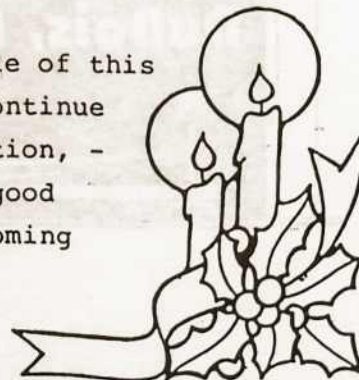
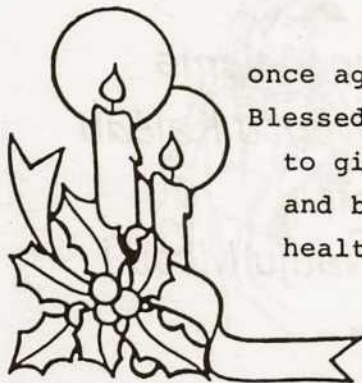


The fourteen Councils on the East Coast - from  
upper New York State to Southern Florida - which  
include one thousand staunch K of L members from

*Mid-Atlantic District*

once again remind all of the miracle of this  
Blessed Christmas. May the Lord continue  
to give strength to our organization, -  
and bring peace, happiness, and good  
health in our lives during the coming

NEW YEAR.





May the Spirit of Christmas  
bring you Peace.  
The Gladness of Christmas  
give you Hope.  
The Warmth of Christmas  
grant you Love.



LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ  
IR LAIMINGŲ METŲ!

**COUNCIL 36**  
**CHICAGO**



The Executive Board and  
All Members of  
**Council 110, Maspeth  
Queens, NY**

Sincerely wish all our  
companion Knights -  
A joyous Christmas Season  
with Happiness and good health  
throughout the New Year  
and beyond.

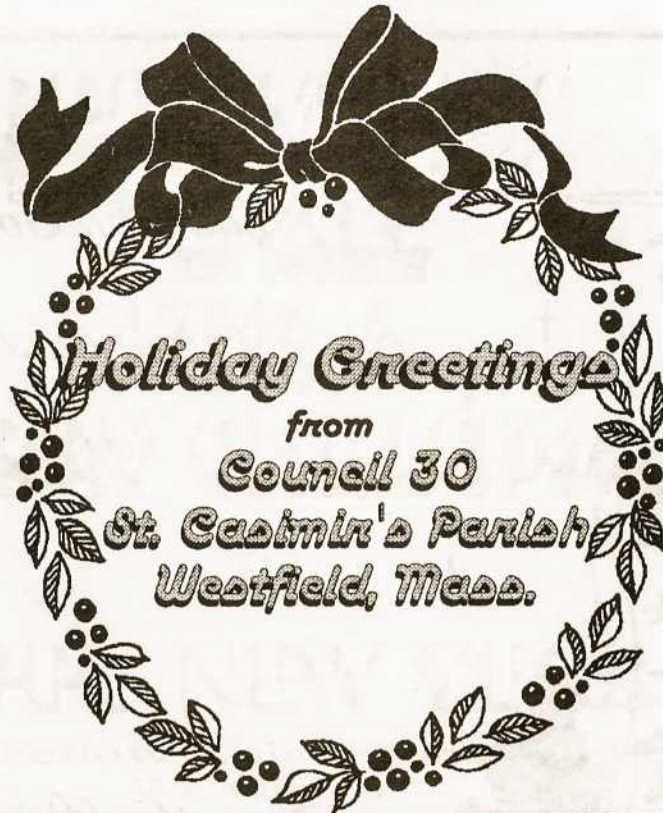
The Officers and Members of the  
**Amber District**

wish all our fellow Knights  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Peace, Good Health and Happiness to all.

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!**

C-3 Philadelphia	C-140 Syracuse
C-46 Forest City	C-142 Washington
C-63 Lehigh Valley	C-143 Pittston
C-72 Binghamton	C-144 Anthracite
C-74 Scranton	C-146 Harrisburg
C-118 Hazelton	C-156 Shamokin





**Best Wishes for a  
 Merry Christmas  
 and  
 Happy New Year**

*from all the members  
 of the New England District  
 Knights of Lithuania*



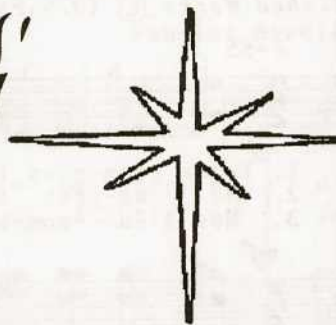


**Council 90  
Kearny, NJ**

*Linksmu Šv. Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų  
Visiems Lietuvos  
Vyčiams*

*May the Prince of Peace  
and His Blessed Mother  
bestow on all our fellow  
Knights both near and far  
Health, Happiness and a  
Prosperous New Year!*

**BEST WISHES'  
TO ALL  
FOR A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS'  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



To our Fellow Knights and Friends  
We wish a

Linksmų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų



**MID AMERICA DISTRICT**

## KALĒDU NAKTĪ

Jonas Minelga

Unpublished Works © 1979 Faustas Strolia

Faustas Strolia, 1979

*♩* = 55

*mf* 1. Trauk dan-gaus lop - ši - nē, *mp* kla- jū- ne vē - jau!  
 2. Ne - už-gēsk, žvaigž - de - lē, Virš lau- ku su - ži - bus,  
 3. Mos ša - kom ber - že - liai *mp* Si - dab- rū da - žy - ti,

*p* 1. Lai- mink mūs tē - vy - ne, *mp* Gi - mes At - pir - *mf* kē - jau!  
 2. Vesk, pa - ro - dyk ke - lia, I tē - vū so - dy - bas!  
 3. Ten pa- links mūs ke - liai Prieš Ta - vē, Ma - žy - ti.

*mf* Ly - - lia, oi - ly - lia, *mp* Ly - - lia, oi - ly - lia,

*mf* 1. Lai- mink mūs tē - vy - ne, *f* Gi - mes At - pir - kē - jau! *pp*  
 2. Vesk, pa - ro - dyk ke - lia, I tē - vū so - dy - bas!  
 3. Ten pa- links mūs ke - liai Prieš Ta - vē, Ma - žy - ti. *p* (*rit.*) *pp*

Unpublished Works © 1979 Faustas Strolia

## GIMĖ KRISTUS

Jonas Minelga

 $\text{♩} = 70$  *Leggieramente*

Faustas Strolia, 1979

1. *f* Gi - mė Kris - tus, - aš ma - čiau, *mf* Pie - me - nè - liai é - jo.  
3. *f* Trys ka - ra - liai iš ry - tų *mf* Auk - so žvaigž - dė se - ka...

1. *f* Nak - tį žvaigž - dė daug skais - čiau Švie - tē ir žē - rē - jo.  
3. *f* Tau prie Ne - mu - no kran - tų *mf* Ji pa - ro - dys ta - ką. *Fine*

## PRIEGIESMIS

2. *mp* Var - pui gau - džiant, an - ge - lai *cresc.* Gies - mė Jam gie - do - jo, *mf*

2. *mp* Bal - tos pie - vos ir ši - lai *cresc. molto e rallentando* Pa - ta - lė - li *f* klo - jo. *DC al* *Fine*

\*) Po trečio posmo giedoti priegiesmį ir užbaigti su pirmu.



SVEIKINAME VISUS VYŠIUS  
IR  
LINKIME ŠVENTU IR LINKSMU KALEDU  
IR  
LAIMINGU NAUJU METU

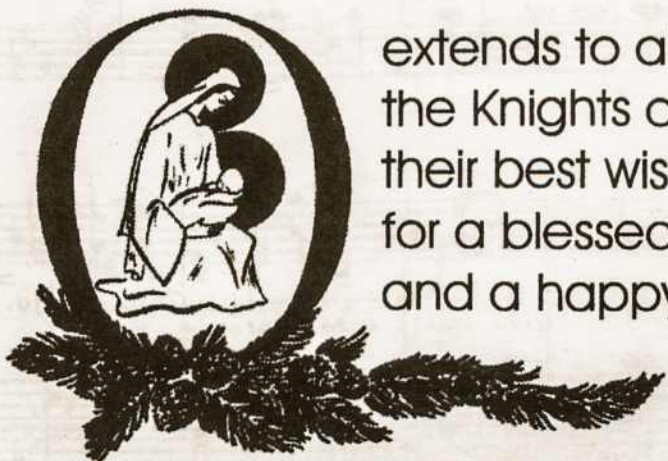


**MAY GOD BLESS YOUR CHRISTMAS SEASON !**

*Anthracite Council 144  
Schuylkill County, Pa.*

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**MARQUETTE PARK  
COUNCIL 112, CHICAGO, IL**



extends to all their friends in  
the Knights of Lithuania  
their best wishes  
for a blessed, holy Christmas  
and a happy, healthy New Year



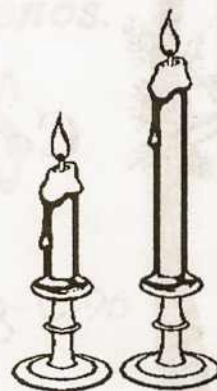
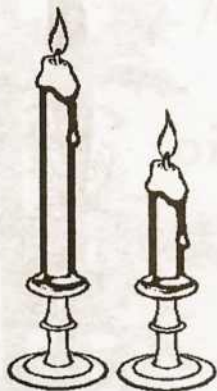
The Members of St. Michael's Council #156  
Shamokin, PA

wishes to extend sincere Christmas  
greetings to you and your loved ones:

LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ  
IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ !

*So God bless us, one and all,  
With hearts and hearthstones warm,  
And may he prosper great and small,  
And keep us out of harm;  
And teach us still His sweet good-will  
This merry Christmas morning.*

- Edwin Waugh




TO ALL OUR KNIGHTS AND FRIENDS  
A HOLY AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

COUNCIL 29  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY



PEACE



Linksmų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų  
From the Members of  
Council #96 - Dayton, Ohio

*Your hosts for the  
84th Knights of Lithuania  
National Convention!*

May the Blessings of Peace,  
Hope and Love  
be your gifts during the Holidays  
and throughout the year!!!

We look forward to seeing  
all of you on  
August 7 - 10, 1997 !!!!!!!!!!!



*How can I ever begin to thank God  
for the wonderful blessings He sends.*

*For the caring, the joy, and the warmth  
that we've shared  
from the moment we first became friends.*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Elinor Sluzas, HM  
Annamarie & Mark Berger - C-96  
Joey Berger - C-96 Junlor*

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

\* \* \* \* \*

*WE PRAY OUR HEAVENLY CREATOR, TO BLESS AND GUIDE OUR LEADERSHIP,  
TO SO PROVIDE OUR NATIVE LITHUANIA AS TO REGAIN HER STRENGTH AND FAITH.  
WE PRAY HE GRANT OUR FELLOW KNIGHTS THE PEACE AND JOY THEY'VE EARNED.  
BOUND IN BLESSED LASTING FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST - WE CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH!*

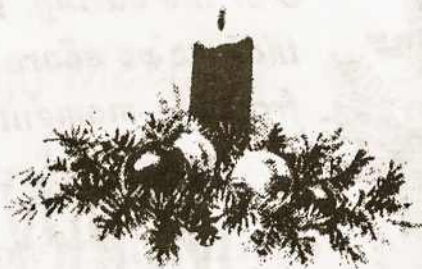
SVEIKINAME VYČIUS SU ŠV. KALĖDOM IR NAUJAIS 1997 METAIS !

COUNCIL 41 † BROOKLYN - New York

† BILL KUMETA - PRESIDENT † KUN. VYTAUTAS PALUBINSKAS - SPIRITUAL ADVISOR †

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and a*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
*to*  
**ALL!**  
 COUNCIL 12  
 New York City  
 Executive Board  
 and  
 Members

**JOYOUS NOEL**



**COUNCIL 79**  
**Southfield , MA**



*WISHING YOU*  
*a*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*filled with*  
**LOVE and PEACE!**



**COUNCIL 141**  
**Bridgeport, Conn.**



Syracuse, NY

**Council 146**  
**Harrisburg, PA**

Wishes Everyone  
A Joyous Christmas  
and  
Peaceful  
New Year  
Blessings,  
too !



Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metų.  
Council 74 Officers for 1996-97  
and all K. of L. Members



Pres. - Marie Laske  
V. Pres. - Rose Stanche  
R. Sec. - Ruth Yanish  
F. Sec. - Martha Branch  
Treas. - Margaret Clegg



Pub. Rel. - Dell Zvirblis  
Lith. Affairs - Helen Cravath  
Cultural - Lee Bozenko  
Ritual - Peg Romanuskas  
VYTIS Corr. - Marie Lasky



Trustees - Les Zewicki  
John Ramoska  
Frank Shimkus  
Sgt.-at-Arms - Dick Laske  
Spir. Advisor - Msgr. Peter Madus

C-74, Scranton, PA

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF  
C-143, PITTSTON, PA

WISH  
A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS  
AND HEALTHY  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL



Linksmų Kalėdų Svenčių  
ir Sveikų, Laimingų Naujųjų Metų  
Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmių Švenčių Brolams ir Sesutėms Vyčiams  
 Council 1  
 Brockton, Mass.



Ačiu Širdingai for making the  
**83rd NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Full of beautiful memories, friendship and pride in our  
 Lithuanian heritage !!! See you all in Dayton.



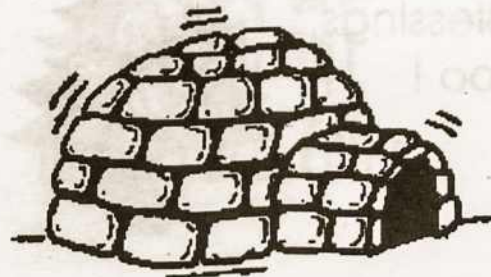
Peace and Happiness to all  
 the Knights of Lithuania  
 at Christmas  
 and throughout  
 the New Year

**Council 3  
 Philadelphia**

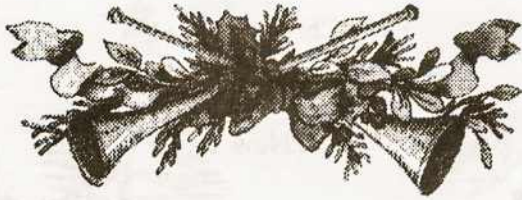


LINSKMŲ ŠVENTŲ  
 KALĖDŲ IR  
 LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ  
 METŲ!

M E R R Y  
 CHRISTMAS AND  
 BEST WISHES  
 FOR A HAPPY  
 AND HEALTHY  
 NEW YEAR FROM  
 COUNCIL #19-  
 PITTSBURGH!



Happy, Healthy  
and  
Holy Holiday Season



*Council 82  
Gary, Indiana*



Our Best Wishes to All  
For a Blessed Christmas  
and a Joyful New Year.

*Council 52  
Elizabeth, New Jersey*



Amsterdamo Vyčių nariai Kuopa 100  
linki linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir  
laimingų sveikų Naujų Metų  
visiems draugams Vyčiams !

*Council 100  
St. Casimir's Parish  
Amsterdam, NY*



*Sveikiname Visus Vyčius  
Šventų ir Linksmu  
Kalėdinių Švenčių.*

**Happiest of Christmas  
Holiday Greetings from  
Detroit Council 102**

To Member Knights And Friends,  
Vyčių nariams ir mano draugams, Šventų,  
Sveiky, Linksmų ir Laimingų - Šv. Kalėdų  
ir Naujųjų 1997 Metų.

I wish you a Blessed, Healthy,  
Happy and Prosperous  
Christmas and New Year.



Honorary Member,  
Annie Mitchell Matalavich  
Council 52  
Elizabeth, NJ

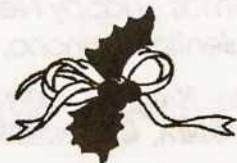


Merry Christmas

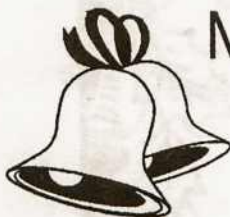


# Knights of Lithuania

## Council 50 - New Haven, CT



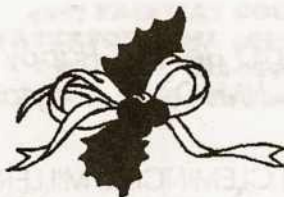
Christmas Carols fill the air  
Smiling faces everywhere  
To all Councils, far and near  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



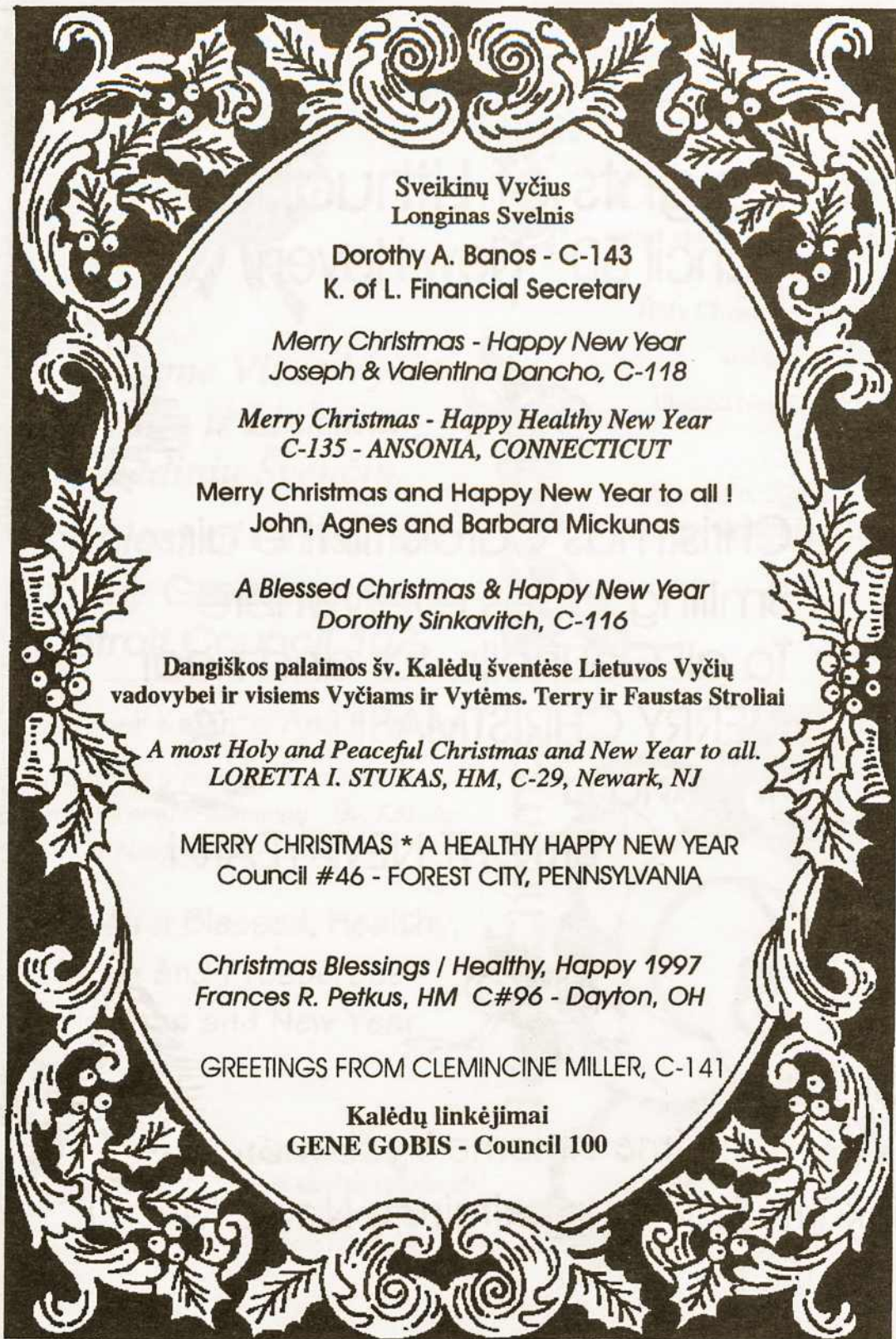
And a



**BRIGHT NEW YEAR !**



Linkime visiems Vyčiams:  
Linksmų kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų !



Sveikinų Vyčius  
Longinas Svelnis

Dorothy A. Banos - C-143  
K. of L. Financial Secretary

*Merry Christmas - Happy New Year  
Joseph & Valentina Dancho, C-118*

*Merry Christmas - Happy Healthy New Year  
C-135 - ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all !  
John, Agnes and Barbara Mickunas

*A Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year  
Dorothy Sinkavitch, C-116*

Dangiškos palaimos šv. Kalėdų šventėse Lietuvos Vyčių  
vadovybei ir visiems Vyčiams ir Vytėms. Terry ir Faustas Stroliai

*A most Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year to all.  
LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM, C-29, Newark, NJ*

MERRY CHRISTMAS \* A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR  
Council #46 - FOREST CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

*Christmas Blessings / Healthy, Happy 1997  
Frances R. Petkus, HM C#96 - Dayton, OH*

GREETINGS FROM CLEMINCINE MILLER, C-141

Kalėdų linkėjimai  
GENE GOBIS - Council 100



*Linkime Viesiems Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų 1997 Metų!*

**AČIŪ**  
and  
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**  
**You made it happen!**

**Medicine and Medical supplies worth over**  
**35 MILLION DOLLARS**  
**40 Containers sent to Lithuania as of October 1996**

*Keep the spirit of Christmas alive in your heart  
365 days of the year!*

*By sending your contribution to:*

**AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.**

**4557 FAIRWAY COURT  
WATERFORD, MI 48328-3483**

**Ph: (810) 682-0098**

**Fax: (810) 682-5201**

*We must continue this mission for as long as our help is  
needed! It will continue if you are generous with your prayers  
and financial contributions.*

## **84th NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS: A Short Biography of host council C#96, Dayton**

*By Fran Petkus & Elinor Sluzas*

To get acquainted with us, the following is a short biography of C #96 - your 84th National Convention host:

The Knights of Lithuania in Dayton, Ohio was first organized in 1917 but was unchartered. This group of young Lithuanians remained active until 1921. The Knights of Lithuania brass band, which they had formed, served the parish and community for many years.

There was an attempt to revive the council in 1928 by V. Ed Pavis. It wasn't until February of 1932 that Daytonian Vincent Damasus of the national board and Frank Gudelis, of Dayton, officially reorganized the council known as C#96. One of the charter members is still a member, Veronica Omlor. Our council is very family orientated as many of our members are third and fourth generation Knights. We are very much involved with our parish - Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church. We continue to meet the goals of our organization through many charity projects and remain aware of the needs of our Lithuanian people here and in Lithuania.

Like many of you, in the past we presented plays in Lithuanian, had Lithuanian language classes and K of L Lithuanian Dance groups. Today we continue to be active in the Knights of Lithuania's many projects and wherever possible share our rich heritage with the Dayton community.

In the late 30's - 1942, C #96 had a Junior Council. Our Regular and Junior Councils were very strong but with the outbreak of WWII we found our young men going off to serve their country. The women of our council kept us alive. However, the Juniors, lacking leadership, became inactive. In 1955 the Juniors were reorganized and have remained active to this day and move into the Regular Council when they become of age. Our Juniors are invited to participate in Regular Council activities. They have several projects of their own to keep them busy. One in particular is their annual

May Crowning of the Blessed Mother and hosting their Mother's Day Breakfast.

Many of our members have held positions not only on the council level but, also the district and national levels. As a very active council, we have been blessed over the years to see seven members elevated to Honorary Membership. Twelve members have received the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Awards.

C #96 hosted its first national convention in 1937. This was followed with the council hosting three more conventions in 1952, 1967 and 1976. Many of our young members are part of the 84th National Convention committee! We look forward to seeing all of you in August! (Must warn you - from our Dayton conventions a few inter-council marriages emerged!) ❖❖❖



### **VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA !**

Book your reservations now with Alice.  
Room with private bath \$200 per week.  
Room with semi-private bath \$150 per week. Includes continental breakfast, heated pool, air conditioning. Near shopping malls, golf courses and beach.

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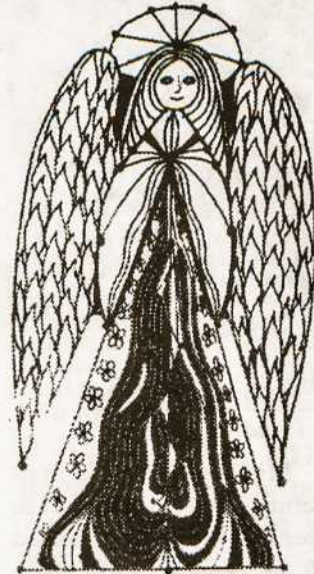
*There is no time quite like Christmas for remembering  
the treasured friendships of those we see often and  
those who are far away.*

*From the Executive Committee, Board of Directors  
and the entire membership come very best wishes for a*

*Beautiful Christmas and a New Year  
of Peace and Happiness.*

## **MAIRONIS PARK**

LITHUANIAN CHARITABLE SOCIETY  
52 So. Quinsigamond Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts



**Šventų Kalėdų ir Naujų Metų progra, mūsų komitetas,  
direktoriai ir visa naryste sveikiname ir linkime ramybės,  
džiaugsmo ir laimes per šventes ir per ateinančius metus.**

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Federal Credit Union  
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\*VTIS MasterCard /  
Auto Loans  
Home Improvement Loans  
Home Equity Loans  
Mortgages



## District & Council News



*Official MCD  
Convention  
photo Sept.  
20-22.  
Submitted by  
Bob Boris.*

### Mid-Central District

*John and Andrea Baltrus*

The Mid-Central District's fall meeting and pilgrimage in September 27 to 29 was hosted by C-96 in Dayton, OH. After enduring numerous traffic tie-ups and miserable traveling weather, our members were able to relax and enjoy a very special weekend of religious reflection and entertainment.

The weekend began with a reception on Friday evening at the Howard Johnson's outside of Dayton. Plenty of delicious food and an abundance of beverages made for a spirited and extended celebration. We were joined by guests from C-36 in Chicago, who were willing to travel to enjoy a good party.

The weather began to clear on Saturday morning as we gathered in Holy Cross Church for the religious part of our program. Rev. Michael Halloran with the assistance of some of our delegates, led us in a spiritual rosary and benediction. The service was accompanied with music by the church choir, which consists of several of C-96's

younger members. Following the service, we retreated to the church hall for a deliciously prepared lunch that was immediately followed by our district meeting. We thank former president, Lillian Petravičius, for three years of dedicated service to our district and welcome Elena Mikalauskas of C-96 as our new District President. Mark Bell of C-96 is our new treasurer and Donna Bunikis (C-102) remains our secretary. The other offices saw some change, with Brian Johnson (C-19) moving up to 1st V-P. Regina Juška (C-102), 2nd V-P, Eleanor Mantz 3rd V-P, and Rob Pant (C-96), trustee.

That evening we returned to celebrate an Octoberfest at the church hall. There was more dancing and drinking and included a special performance by the Vėjelis dancers. They treated us to several lively and entertaining Lithuanian folk dances.

Sunday morning was highlighted by a mass for the deceased members of the MCD. Following the mass there was a

special candle-lighting ceremony in remembrance of all deceased members. Later we had our first pilgrimage picture taken on the lawn of the church. Prior to mass, a third degree medal was presented to C-96 member Ida Kavy, other 3rd degree medals were blessed for later presentation to C-96 members Pauline Pietrzak and Frances Vangas. Our District Award medal was also presented to several C-96 members prior to mass. The weekend concluded with a Lithuanian feast at Honorary Member Elinor Služas' beautiful Amber Rose restaurant. We thank all of the members of C-96 for hosting a most enjoyable weekend and look forward to our spring meeting and bowling tournament in May, when we hope to gather somewhere near Detroit, MI.

### C - 7, Waterbury, CT

*Arlene Stiklius*

Father John Rikteraitis, Father Francis Karvelis and Council 7 officers thank all that attended and helped make the 7th. Annual Prayer Day for

Lithuania a huge success.

Council 7 is saddened by the passing of former member Doris Baranauskas. Doris was very active until her illness two years ago and was a member of the K of L Bowling League for many years. Our prayers and condolences go out to her family. Doris will be missed by all, but not forgotten.

We all wish Natalie Velicka a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

We are happy to see that Ann Cheplick is feeling better after her recent accident.

### **C - 10, Athol - Gardner, MA** *Vincukas*

The Athol - Gardner council hosted the Fall New England Convention on Sunday September 22 at St. Francis' Church.

The activities began with a Mass concelebrated by pastor Rev. Raymond Messier and Rev. Peter Shakalis. Lector was Bill Wišniauskas. Flagbearer Paul Krustapentus. The choir was great under the direction of Theresa Sabas. Brunch followed. After the sessions we had a wine and cheese break. A hardy Lithuanian supper followed. Committee chairmen were: Brunch - Bill Wišniauskas, Wine and cheese - Nellie Melaik and Marie Colo, Program - Kathryn Paliulis, Decorations - Joanna Chastney, Raffle - Bronė Wišniauskienė, Music - Sophia Fiorentino, Supper - Sophia Fiorentino and Dr. Henry Gailiūnas, Set up Bob Barcom, Registration Roberta Landry, Coffee - Mylda Stasiūnas, Supper cooks - Armand and Pam Bouthillier.

About 110 delegates and guests were in attendance. Nellie Melaika and Dr. Henry Gailiūnas were honored and presented gifts by Bronė Wišniauskienė, on the occasion of their 50 years as members of council 10. Nell was born and grew up in that section of Athol known as Cobble Knoll. Our grand lady Tina Shatos age 92 and a 82 year member was in attendance and along with Bronė Wišniauskienė and others received their 3rd degree from Rita Pinkus. Both dailies wrote up the Convention before and after the event. Rev. John Jutt, former pastor and builder of the beautiful rectory was prayerfully remembered on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his untimely death at age 54.

Several of our council members attended the 80th anniversary of council 26 in Worcester at St. Casimir's Church. Dr. Mariann Shatas has returned to her native Athol parish of St. Francis to be nearer her mother, Tina, from Burlington, VT. She has accepted a position at the Massachusetts General in Boston as a professor of cardiovascular research. The council extends our warmest wishes and hopes to see more of the good doctor.

Many K. of L'ers from Gardner were workers at the Lithuanian Club for its anniversary on Sept. 15. Many Athol members also were present.

Lillian Geraitis Erickson of Bothell, WA spent 3 weeks in Gardner and attended our K. of L. convention.

Minnie Hakkinen donated buckets of her beautiful garden

flowers. They graced our fall convention. Ačiū, Monika!

The writer of this article recently heard of the death of Bernice Kavadoras Marks of Falmouth on the Cape. He remembers Bernice as a devoted long-time member.

We wish a holy, happy and blessed Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year to the "Vytis" staff and all the Knights of Lithuania membership! Linksmų švenčių visiems!

### **C - 17, South Boston, MA** *Rita Ruta*

Greetings from C17, South Boston. Long time no hear!

The convention in Brockton held by C1 was a great experience for all; young and old; established and renewed members. We were especially privileged in C17 at this time, since our beloved President of long standing, Al Akule was awarded his Honorary Degree. He has been totally devoted and responsible to his duties to his beloved K of L on a local, New England District level as well as National Level. We are happy about the turn out of his proud family as well as council members.

We continued to celebrate this great event by attending an appreciation night on September 28 in our local parish of St. Peter Lithuanian Church. A grand time was had by all. Feel free to send him congratulatory cards at the following:

Alexander Akule, 20 Summer Drive, Saugus, Ma. 01906.

We must commend C1, Brockton for their sponsoring a wonderful National convention.

Their team spirit, hard work, and hospitality radiated to all.

We received a letter from Rev. Vytautas Sadauskas S.J. who studied at Jesuit Weston College and who helped at St. Peter Parish and is now in Kaunas. He thanked the council members for their monetary gift and was responsible for delivering \$125 to Sr. Joane Liaukaute of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth who the members adopted. We're proud of the members who opened their hearts and pocket books for the second time on short notice. The first time was for supplies. The one \$ 100 bill probably caused a reaction with the authorities with new issuance.

Mary Mickevich is recuperating after successful surgery and was able to attend the first meeting.

Tony Young, Honorary Degree Member, is a resident of St. Joseph Manor in Brockton and some of you may have seen him during the tour of the facilities as part of the convention agenda.

Phyllis Grendal, Honorary Degree Member is at home but less active. She attended the Banquet.

Walter and Alice Opanasets celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary October 12, 1996. She is the dear friend of Mary Matachinskus of Texas and they are commonly referred to as the MERMAIDS. They meet faithfully at the conventions.

Joseph Balaconis received his 4th degree at the convention at Brockton. He recently fell and fractured his clavicle, but is on the mend.

John Norinkavitch, Anne's



***C-17's Pride: New Honorary Member, Al Akule (center) amid admirers enjoys the limelight as well as the apron!***

husband died 6/9/96. He was a K of L member for 49 years and earned his 3rd degree. Anne cared for John at home for many years and only 3 days before Christmas entered a nursing home. While in transit to the hospital, he died, but not without complimenting his wife with the words, "you are my angel".

### **C-26, Worcester, MA**

*Olga*

Our members returned from the National Convention held in Brockton and the N.E. District Convention held in Athol, praising at great length the hosts, their hospitality, sessions, entertainment and we take this opportunity to offer our sincere Lietuvišką ačiū.

Marion Racicot, our ritual chairperson, announced recently that Lillian Kondrotas was awarded the Third Degree at the

National convention.

First Degrees were awarded at the June council meeting to Polly Brosky, Anthony and Rita Collins, Jessica Waska, Alice Deres, and Charles and Stephanie Jordan. Second Degrees were awarded to Ann and William Buckley, Virginia Fikoski, Mary Lovett, Leonard Matulis, Dorothy Virbasius and Nell Dailida. All are valued members. Congratulations!

Gala golden wedding anniversary celebrations were enjoyed by Virginia and Dwight Cummings in September and by Anne and Bill Leseman in October. Congratulations!

Welcome to new members Ronald and Barbara Spakauskas and Albina Bartkus. Guy Glodis has also rejoined.

The Knights of Lithuania's 80th Anniversary was observed with Mass and dinner following in the church hall on October 12th. Special remembrance was



*C-26 Worcester K. of L.'ers hosted the Bob Cousy Tournament with Lithuanian Athletes this past July '96 (top). Leading the parade that honored them are Vivian Rogers and Victoria Augustine (left).*

made of the late Father John Jutt on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of death. Father Jutt was so very instrumental in building a meaningful K. of L. In loving memory we will recall Father Jutt's beautiful life. At the time of his death, Father Jutt was pastor of our Saint Casimir's Church here in Worcester.

We lament the news that our New Jersey member, Anne (Nancy) Gorden, died in September. Prayer-filled condolences to her family.

President, Anne Leseman, has asked us to do some serious contemplating as we approach our council's fall elections. Our present executive board has performed beautifully the entire term and the Minutes book holds the names of many individuals working to earn degrees.

Jessica Waska has begun her college career this fall and has expressed her gratitude for the K. of L. scholarships she has received to help her along the way.

Father Anthony Nockunas, M.I.C., is busy with his duties and commitments to our parish, St. Casimir's, as he serves as administrator, but he continues to support us in our efforts to remain strong.

A very Merry Christmas and a happy and holy New Year to all our K. of L. friends from all of us here in Council 26!

### **C-29, Newark, NJ**

*Rita S. Sussko*

Council 29 closed the Spring season with our June 9th meeting.

Congratulations and a hearty welcome was extended to our three new members, Richard Griskey of Summit NJ, Ignatius Gavas, Clifton NJ and Sandra Detwiler of Caledonia MI, daughter of Rita Sussko.

Nellie Krynicki and Donna Rogers accepted the task to serve as Nominating Committee. A Happy and Healthy Summer was wished to all!

In August, HM Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko traveled to Brockton to attend the 83rd National Convention. Following the convention they visited the "Lithuanian Village" in Boston, Mass., where authentic Lithuanian food, music and gifts were available.

September 8th welcomed back our members from a long humid summer. The nominating committee presented their slate and elections will be held at the next meeting which will be on October 8th.

On September 15th Council 29 hosted the Mid Atlantic District meeting. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter M. Uhde, C-29 Spiritual Advisor. Dinner and meeting followed in the church hall. President, Edward Barkowski, presided assisted by his most efficient Board

members. Present were: Bernice Aviza, Muriel Lekstutis, Josephine Zukas, HM Mary Kober (who wears two hats, Public Relations and Vytis Correspondent) Joseph Zukas, Rita Sussko, Anthony Kober and John Sakol. We congratulate the 1996-1997 Board members, who were elected at this meeting. C-29 offered a continental breakfast, home cooked dinner and light supper to all those in attendance. Our Lithuanian hospitality would not permit anyone to leave for home hungry. Our most capable Marie Guoba was chairperson, aided by her loyal committee members.

C-29 held their Annual Dinner and Dance on October 13th, chaired by Marie Guoba, cocktail hour chaired by Ann O'Neill and music supplied by Joe Thomas. The affair was deemed a huge success by all who attended. Again our loyal committee members helped to make it the success which it was.

On November 3rd Holy Trinity Parish held a Dinner and Dance to commemorate our 95th Anniversary, hosted by the Parish Council.

Until we meet in print again - BEST WISHES to all our Fellow Knights.

### **C-50, New Haven, CT**

*Audrey Toole*

Council 50 is prepared for the new year with our new slate of officers: President - Isabel Peterson, 1st Vice Pres. - Magdalen Cronin, 2nd Vice Pres. Mary Geipel, Secretary - Audrey Toole, Treasurer - Anne Meskins, Financial Secretary - Helen Klimaszewski, Asst. Fin. Sec. - Helen Lostys, Ritual -



***C-74 participants at the Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral included Marie Laske, Helen Churi, Nathan Stilbins, Father Laske, Msgr. Ozalas, Helen Cravath, Ann Sewatsky, John Ramoska and Nell Bayoras Romanas.***

Edward Toole, Sgt. at Arms - Anthony Kordorsky, Michael Meizies, Trustees - Helen Case, Anne Gedrim, Leo Tamulis, Sunshine - Helen Medley, Publicity - Elizabeth Gybowski, Vytis correspondent - Audrey Toole.

Council activities at the end of 1996 included our Holiday Boutique ably chaired by Marion Meshako and the council Christmas party chaired by Irene Meizies. Both functions gave members a chance to socialize and to share good food and good company.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the families of Walter Lukaszewski and Albert Gutauskas. Al had served as ritual chair, vice president and council president, who always had a funny story. We will miss him and his humor.

We also remember our ailing and recuperating members: Al Plant, Anne Rinkevicius, Pat Tamulis, Marion Meshako, Frank Antin, Helen Maculaitis, Anne Gedrim, Theresa Strimaitis, Edward Lougal, Alice

Fleming, Anita Johnson and Father Casey. We pray for their good health and for that of all our members in our new year.

### **C-74, Scranton, PA**

*Marie Laske*

Congratulations to the Basilica of St. Ann in Scranton. When Cardinal Achille Silverstrine, a high ranking official of the Roman Catholic Church and confidant of Pope John Paul II, came to St. Ann's in 1993, my granddaughter Autumn Laske carried gifts wearing her Lithuanian national costume. She was only 5 years old. Her father, Gregory, died untimely at age 34. My son Richard, Jr. and his crew painted the inside of the basilica. He said it was an honor for him and his men working for the Passionist Fathers.

On July 26 every year at St. Anne's Basilica we have a Lithuanian Mass offered by Father Kasenskas, Father Alisauskas, Msgr. Ozalas and Msgr. Madus.

The Lithuanian Rosary,



hosted by C-74 - Scranton and C-143 of Pittston, was very successful. The offertory procession featured Lithuanian offerings. Very Rev. Joseph J. Lasky, pastor of St. Mary's Annunciation church in Kingston was homilist. Msgr. Michael Ozalas, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph's Lithuanian church, North Scranton officiated at the Benediction. Lectors were Helen Chure and Ann Marie Seutsky. Readers were Helen Cravath and Nell Bayoras. Marie and Richard Laske were coordinators. Rosaries were given to all who attended.

Marie Laske, president of council 74 presented Helen Churi a gift in appreciation for her hard work.

We are now preparing for our annual Kucios on December 8th. Margaret Clegg, Helen Churi and Lee Bozenko are the organizers.

We are looking for new members since so many have gone to their eternal reward.

Good health to all our Knights of Lithuania.

### **C-96, Dayton, OH**

*Fran Petkus*

Participation by the councils in the MCD, and members of C-16 Chicago, made the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage a tremendous success the weekend of 9/27-29/96. Thanks must go to the Co-Chrs, Fran Petkus and Robert Pant and their committees; The Mikalauskas', George, Frances, Elena; Elaine Pacovsky; Lauretta /Henry Pant; the Berczelly's, Eloise, Joyce, Amy; James Geiger; Judy Petrokas (who had to have emergency care after 'slicing' her



***MCD Ritual Chair,  
HM Fran Petkus  
with 3rd Degree  
Recipient,  
Ida Kavy .***

*Photo by Jim Geiger*

finger while cutting the turkey); Ann Scott who made those wonderful homemade noodles; Elinor Sluzas; Joe Fletcher; Betty Nash and all the other K of L members, in and out of town, who helped in various capacities!

On Saturday the 28th Father Michael Holloran held a memorable Holy Hour. Services began with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Meditation on the Spiritual Rosary with readings for each bead taken from the Bible was truly very meaningful. Services were closed with Benediction. Everyone left church deep in thought!

The MCD meeting took place in the church hall following lunch. Members from C -96 on the MCD Board are: President Elena Mikalauskas; Treasurer Mark Bell; Sergeant-at-Arms, Rob Pant; Ritual/MCD ATL Coordinator Fran Petkus.

C -96 Juniors were the Offertory Bearers for the closing Mass. Junior Advisor Annamarie Sluzas Berger did a wonderful job in preparing the Juniors. Before Mass, Ida Kavy, C -96, received her Third Degree Medal. Our other recipient, Pauline Pietrzak, was unable to attend. Our council's Ritual

Committee, with the medal blessed in church, presented it to Polly at her home care center. Following Mass, George Mikalauskas was in charge of presentation of the MCD Recognition Award. Recipients from C -96 were: Sally Miller, Judy Petrokas, John/Joyce Berczelly, Aldona Ryan, Elena Mikalauskas and Veronica Omlor (C -96 Charter Member)! MCD newly elected President Elena Mikalauskas led the services honoring deceased members of the district. The weekend closed with dinner at Elinor's Amber Rose!

On Oct. 5th C -96 held its Annual Election Supper in the church hall. The officers are as follows: Spiritual Adv.-Fr. Michael Holloran; Pres.-Robert Pant; 1st. VP-Elena Mikalauskas; 3rd VPs-Christine Fletcher/Julie Goecke; Treas, James Geiger; Rec.Sec.-Lauretta Pant; Fin.Sec.-Frances Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms -Eric Geiger/Henry Pant; Trustees-Jos.E. Mantz/George Mikalauskas. Committee Chrs-Religious/Lithuanian Affairs/MCD Recognition Award-George Mikalauskas; Cultural-Eric Geiger;

Ritual/VYTIS-Fran Petkus;  
 Council Bulletin Ed.-Linda Pant;  
 Historian-Molly Geiger;  
 Social-Elaine Pacovsky;  
 Condolence-Eloise Berczelly;  
 ByLaws-Eleanor/Jos.E. Mantz;  
 Telephone Squad-Joyce  
 Berczelly; Public Relations -  
 MaryAgnes Mikalauskas;  
 Librarian-Henry Pant;  
 Photographer-Connie Geiger.

Much success to the new Council Board with many thanks to the outgoing Board for keeping our council busy this past term!

Our very deepest sympathies go to Aldona Ryan and her family on the sudden loss of her husband, Joseph. Joe was not only a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Lithuania but also a 4th Degree member of the Ancient Order of Hiberians. Joe and Aldona were very active in both cultures. Upon retiring they began a new career. Under the name of ALANJO PRODUCTIONS, together, they produced TV programs about the history of cities in the area and other themes including Holy Cross' Vejelai Dancers! Deepest sympathies also go to Connie and James Geiger on the loss of Connie's father and grandfather of Eric, Aaron, Molly - Herschel Neff. May their souls rest in the peace of the Lord!

A Blessed Holiday Season to All! We shall see you August 7-10, 1997!!!!

### **C-100, Amsterdam , NY**

*Smile and Sparkle*

C-100 Amsterdam delegates attending the national convention in Brockton were Polly Ziausys, Helen Kiuber, Betty Kuzmich and Gene Gobis. Mikalina

Tambasco represented our junior council. At the closing banquet Mikalina received a \$2,000.00 scholarship award and we wish her much success in her studies in Buffalo.

We wish to express our condolences to member Edward Baranauskas and wife, Genute on the recent loss of their son, Tom, in California.

Many of our council members attended the summer outing on the banks of the Mohawk River which was sponsored by Schenectady (Hudson-Mohawk) Council 136. The weather was perfect. We compliment Ed Barkowski and his crew for a terrific outing.

Our faithful knight Walter Sargalis entered eternal rest on May 22. Members attended the wake at Vincent Rossi's Funeral Home. Our spiritual advisor, Father Joseph Grabys, led us in prayer. Two months later on July 22 we lost our good member, Sadie LaTorre. May they rest in peace.

We attended mass prior to our September meeting. Rev. Grabys celebrated the mass for deceased member, Walter Sargalis and Tom Baranauskas (Ed's son).

The meeting followed with president Mirga Bablin at the helm. We had our district president, Ed Barkowski present. Reports were given by the delegates Betty Kuzmich, Helen Kiuber, Polly Ziausys and Gene Gobis as to what took place at the national convention.

Our secretary of 8 years, Bea Jasewicz told the members that she was resigning her post. She did an excellent job and we will miss her. The group voted to

have the same officers for another year with Helen Kiuber assigned to be the secretary. Mirga Bablin will continue as president; Regina Kot-1st vice pres.; Gene Gobis - 2nd vice president; Sophie Olbie -treasurer; Polly Ziausys-Lithuanian language; Eleanore Olechowski - Cultural; Betty Kuzmich - ritual; Adeline Raila and Edward Baranauskas - Lithuanian Affairs, and Agnes Rokit will be sending cards to our ailing members. The juniors will be under the guidance of Christine Tambasco.

### **C-109, Great Neck, NY**

*S. G. Petraitis*

At our October meeting held at the Clubhouse of St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck, we voted on and witnessed the installation of our new officers for the year 1996-97 installed by Msgr. Frank Bulovas, our Spiritual Advisor.

For President, we voted for Mary Kober. Not only is Mary an Honorary Member, she was for many years editor of an interesting VYTIS, and has also held various positions both in the National and District levels. She is a charter member of C-109 and has distinguished herself as a staunch Knight, looking for ways to achieve the goals of our organization.

Al Wesey is now our vice president. For years, Al has held the gavel as our president. He has worked hard to preserve the ideals of our council.

Josephine Zukas was elected treasurer. There is no more a capable, hardworking or dedicated individual to the K of L than our Josephine. She has



**'97 Great Neck, NY C-109 Officers:  
Treas. Josephine Zukas, Secy. Sadye Petraitis and  
President, Mary Kober**

kept our financial records in tiptop shape for many, many years.

Joseph Zukas, a new 4th Degree Knight, continues in the office of Financial Secretary. He has kept our members alerted to their obligations concerning membership dues and continues to promote membership growth.

Sadye Petraitis will continue as our VYTIS correspondent. Since the position of Secretary is always difficult to fill, Sadye has agreed to temporarily fill this position for the coming year.

Bea Jamison, with the help of Mimi and Emilie Winsky, will provide the refreshments after our meetings. Bea is always willing to assume this position without complaint and does an excellent job in serving the cakes and coffee.

Anthony Kober is our new Sergeant at Arms. There is no one more conversant and understanding of the constitution and bylaws of National, District and local council of the K of L. He certainly will maintain order

at our meetings.

By the time this article is published, we will have been in Atlantic City on Nov. 14th. Undoubtedly, we will be in the midst of big winners on our bus! Our Christmas Luncheon, scheduled for December 19th, sounds very festive. A bus ride is scheduled to leave from Great Neck to Freeport, L.I., the boat capital of Long Island, followed by lunch at the West Wind Yacht Club.

As we enter yet another New Year, may God continue to bless all of us and our loved ones during the Christmas season and also may 1997 bring much health and happiness as we pray to Him for guidance.

#### **C-110, Maspeth, NY**

*Helen Yakaitis*

At our last meeting held on Oct. 26th we managed to accomplish many plans for the remainder of the year.

We had a Halloween Dinner and Dance on October 27th, which was attended by about 150

gools and goblins. Not too many participated in the costume march, but those who took the time and effort to dress up received loud applause. Thanks to all who helped to make this affair successful and enjoyable namely the chairperson Julie Matulevich, her group of cooks, waitresses, bartenders, raffle sellers and the great music of Joe Thomas, The dance floor was crowded.

Upcoming events: December 8th our Christmas party at O'Neill's in Maspeth, on December 15th our yearly celebration of Kučios.

Anne Morrissey who is in charge of sending packages to Lithuania, has put together several packages of clothing in a shipment that will reach Lithuania before Christmas. Thank you Anne and your helpers for your charitable hearts.

We wish to extend congratulations to the Klimases on their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations are in order to Zina and Bill Budries on their 50th wedding anniversary, Evelyn and Igni Walles celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to Myrtle Beach. Best wishes to all.

Linksmų švenčių visiems!

#### **C-112, Marquette Park, IL**

*Gerrie*

After enjoying a hazy, lazy summer, we resumed regular meetings in September by having our election of officers. Members agreed with the nominating committee selections and elected as president, Julie Zakarka, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd



***C-112 Chicago, IL officers and Spiritual Advisor, Vaclovas Zakarauskas line up for an official picture after the elections in September.***



***Rita Zakara, C-112's outgoing pres. turns the reins to her mother, Julie, newly elected in Sept.***

vice presidents, Al Mockus, Ellie Kasputis, and Maria Deksnis. The recording, financial, and corresponding secretaries elected were Gerrie Chaplin, Terri Vaitkus, and Alvina Giedraitis. Treasurer is Dolores Wainauskis; trustees Lorraine Svelnis and Philomena Vilutis; Sgt. at Arms Jack Abramite, Peter Jasaitis, Louis Rogers and Matt Vilutis.

We are happy to see Canon Zak return for another, year as our Spiritual Advisor after having been seriously ill earlier this year. We hope he continues to enjoy good health for a long time to come.

The outgoing board provided the refreshments after the meeting. We all agreed the snacks and baked goods were

certainly a treat.

Newly-elected president, Julie Zakarka, wasted no time in appointing committee chairmen. Rita Zakarka will be handling Lithuanian Affairs. The publicity team consists of Aldona Brazis, Apolinaras Bagdonas and Gerrie Chaplin. Courtesy/Wake - Estelle Rogers; Action Committee - Vida Sakevicius; Ritual - Phyllis Pelletier; Social - Vida Sakevicius; Cultural - Aldona Brazis, and Sr. Tarcisia will be the council photographer. Good luck to all of you and let's all pitch in to give our new officers and committee people a hand with their many responsibilities.

Get-well soon and come back to us, Sophie Nieminski, we

miss you!

October was a sad month in that we saw the passing of longtime members and friends. Joe Kuizin and Balys Braždionis.

Al Shulicke was someone who always had a ready joke or a funny story to entertain you. A party wasn't a party without him. Years ago, when we were all much younger, Shu (as we called him) always helped us put on those crazy skits at dances and after meetings. He said he was an entertainer and didn't mind wearing a funny costume or doing whatever it took to make people laugh. He was one of a kind and left us with a lot of good memories. He had been in poor health the last few years but we were entertained one last time over the Labor Day weekend when a group of us got together and Shu threw those one-liners at us one after another. We'll miss you, Shu, but wherever you are, we know everyone's having a great time.

#### ***Golden Wedding Anniversary***

C-112 members Marcella (Beržinis) and Col. John Šimutis celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary on Sept. 7, 1996 in Carmichael, CA, at a catered buffet at their home. Col. John Šimutis was a US Air Force

B-25 pilot during WWII and retired from the USAF after 29 years of service. He had joined C-112 on Oct. 11, 1938. Congratulations!

### **C-133, Los Angeles, CA**

*Marytė Sepikas*

The Knights of Lithuania were well represented at the 10th Folk Dance Festival held in Chicago on July 6, 1996. Each performing dancer and teacher of the Los Angeles Spindulys Veteran Dance Troop was a member of our Los Angeles Council. The months of practice were well rewarded with a successful dance festival full of celebrations and socializing.

At the August National Convention held in Brockton, our Council placed first for most new members. Council President, Marytė Sepikas was honored for the fifth consecutive year as the individual recruiting the most new members.

Lithuanian Days were successfully celebrated on October 5 and 6th, 1996. C-133 sponsored a booth featuring Lithuanian baked goods and drinks.

Our Council is looking forward to the holidays with a Christmas meeting set for 12/7, Christmas then New Year's.

Happy Holidays from California.

### **C 144, Anthracite, PA**

*Anne Wargo*

Thanks to a successful Lithuanian Day, \$1,000.00 in donations were sent to the St. Casimir Guild, Lithuanian Orphan Relief, Inc. and the Carmelite Nuns in Lithuania.

We also sent our annual donation to A.P.P.L.E. Our members are all hard working and it is because of them that we are able to continue to support these Lithuanian Causes. Širdingai Ačiū to all of them.

We were saddened this month in the loss of our very good member, Joe Sikora, and extend all our sympathies to Ann and her family. These two have been active members since we organized and Joe was always there to help Ann in whatever she was doing. Ann is one of our talented crafts people, especially in Margučiai.

Election of officers were held with Anne Wargo, President; David Carroll, Vice President; Eleanor Vaicaitis, Secretary; Anna Helen McDonald, Treasurer; Elsie Kosmisky, Financial Secretary; Mary Koons, Cultural Chairman; Joe Martunas, Lithuanian Affairs, Chairman; Helen Chesko, Ritual Chairman and Spiritual Advisor, Father Ronald Jankaitis.

We also extend our sympathy to Pat Roberts in the loss of her husband, Paul. Pat was our past Vice President, but due to her husband's serious illness and long hospitalization was unable to be active.

We also send to Sister Thereselle at the Casimirite Motherhouse in Chicago our very best wishes. Sister was an active member when she was stationed in Minersville, but due to serious illness, she is now at home in Chicago. We all miss your happy ways, Sister, and our prayers and best wishes are with you.

### **C-147, St. Petersburg, FL**

*Dolores Jonaitis*

Sunday September 29, 1996, was Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M.'s 50th Jubilee since his ordination. At the 1 o'clock Lithuanian Mass at Holy Name Church in Gulfport, Father Mathew Čyvas gave a brief history of his life. The men's choir also participated in the ceremonies. After Mass, dinner followed at the Lithuanian Club. He was also honored by other Lithuanian organizations. He was given a standing ovation.

Get well wishes for Violet Kraujalis who was recently hospitalized. She is now at home and, we hope, feeling better.

### **C-156, Shamokin, PA**

(cont. from page 2)

and the second annual Christmas Vigil Dinner on December 6, at Our Lady of Hope Church and Hall, at which time many members will be receiving their First Degree Knighthoods.

The January monthly meeting will be held on January 12, 1997, at the Lithuanian Club and a bingo will be held on January 19, 1997, at the Shamokin Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Once again, thank you for your warm welcome and assistance in starting our Council. Also, we appreciate the support of local organizations--The Lithuanian Club, The Shamokin Knights of Columbus and Our Lady of Hope Church, who have provided us with space to meet and hold fund raisers.



Christmas is almost here and of course - gift giving time. Here is a list of gifts given by gentlemen to their ladies and what the gift tells about the men. The gifts include jewelry, flowers, appliances, books, perfume, underwear, trips, money and the, tickets to the theatre.

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Prancūzai nukreipė savo skvarbų žvilgsnį į dovanas. Tiksliau - į vyrus, kurie ko nors tikisi iš apdovanotųjų damų.

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**Juvelyrinius dirbinius** dovanoja galantiški gero skonio džentelmenai. Tuo jie tarytum sako moteriai komplimentus ar net prisipažįsta meilėje. Ir tikisi, kad širdies dama vis daugiau dėmesio skirs savo išvaizdai - greta jo žmonėse bus tikras papuošalas.

Svajotojas, gyvenantis šia diena, negaili **gėlių**. Tai rodo, kad jis stokoja švelnumo ir dėmesio.

Mėgėjai dovanoti **namų apyvokos reikmenis** yra žmonės, mąstantys apie savo ateitį, solidūs ir rimti. Nori būti gaubiami rūpesčio ir dėmesio.

**Knygas** perka vyrai, kurie mėgsta iki vėlyvos nakties besitęsiančias diskusijas. Jei tai knyga, kurią jis pats skaitęs - vadinasi, trokšta dvasinio bendrumo. Jei pats tokios knygos neatsiverstų, - tikisi iš moters savarankiškumo ir ryžto.

**Kvepalus** moterims perka suvedšiotojai, kurie siekia neriboto dėmesio. Aromatas kiekvieną savaitę turi priminti apie juos.

**Apatinį trikotažą** dovanoja tikri meilės profesionalai. Jų noras - kad dama sugundytų pagal visas taisykles ir nešykštėtų erotinių eksperimentų.

**Kelionę** moteriai gali dovantoti egzotikos ir erotikos mėgėjas, nuolat ieškantis nuotykių. Jis nori, kad santykiai įgautų naują prasmę, galbūt nusprendęs pasipiršti.

Neryžtingieji ir nesavarankiški linkę dovantoti pinigų. Gal kitokia dovana ją nuvils? Jis pats norėtų būti tikras, kad sunkią minutę susilauks paramos.

**Bilietus į teatrą** moteriai įteiks - vyras, linkęs pasiaukoti. Jis tikisi pakantumo ir savo pomėgiams - futbolui ir pan.



## GRUODIS - 1996 - DECEMBER

Garbė Dievui aukštybėse,  
o žemėje ramybė  
jo mylimiems žmonėms!

Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace  
to his beloved people!

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 1        First Sunday of Advent - New Liturgical year begins.
- Dec 3        **International Day of the Handicapped.**
- Dec 8        **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary;**  
**however, in 1996 this date falls on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, so observance**  
**of the feast of the Immaculate Conception is advanced to Dec. 9.**
- Dec 24        On this date in 1991, Pope John Paul II announced the establishment of two  
ecclesiastical provinces in Lithuania, Vilnius and Kaunas. The Archbishop of  
Vilnius serves as metropolitan of the Vilnius province consisting of the  
Dioceses of Kaišiadorys and Panevėžys in addition to Vilnius. The Province  
of Kaunas encompasses the Dioceses of Kaunas, Telšiai and Vilkaviškis, with  
the Archbishop of Kaunas as Metropolitan.
- Dec 25        **A VERY MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!**
- Dec 31        **NEW YEAR'S EVE - A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1997!**

Congratulations to those celebrating their name day in December:

Albina (Dec 16)	Francis (Dec 3)	Natalie (Dec 1)
Alfred (Dec 14)	John-Damascene (Dec 4)	Nicholas (Dec 6)
Arthur (Dec 14)	John of the Cross (Dec 23)	Nina (Dec 15)
Barbara (Dec 4)	John, Apostle and Evangelist	Silvester (Dec 31)
Christine/Nina (Dec 15)	(Dec 27)	Steven (Dec 26)
Dagmara (Dec 12)	Kastytis (Dec 13)	Thomas (Dec 21)
Dalija (Dec 5)	Leocadia (Dec 9)	Victoria (Dec 23)
Darijus (Dec 19)	Lucius, (Dec 2)	Vidas (Dec 28)
Eglė (Dec 27)	Lucy (Dec 13)	Zenon (Dec 8)

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Šiandien palydime senuosius,  
Šiandien sutinkame naujus,  
Šiandien verksim ir dainuosim,  
Nuoširdžiai sveikinsim visus.

Vėl į padangę kils raketos,  
Iš ten lyg žvaigždės kris,  
Ir milijonams mūs planetos,  
Širdyje gims nauja viltis.

Kokie bus šiemet žiurkės metai?  
Ką jie sugriauš, o ką gal duos?  
Juk nenorėtume nei vienas.  
Kad taip prabėgtu be naudos.

Ak metai, metai, kur jūs skubat?  
Kur tie pavasariai žali?  
Kieme kai lakstėme mažyčiai.  
Dabar žiūrėk, plaukai žili.

Nebegražinsi, kas praėjo,  
Paliks tik tavo atminty,  
Seni klevai šlamės nuo vėjo.  
Vingiuos takai toli, toli...

Pakelkim taurę už mus šalį,  
Sveikata, laimė, troškimus,  
Ak Dieve, Dieve visagali,  
Tave meldžiu - palaimink mus.

*Vilnius, 1995 12-31*